

October 1, 2009

OBEY ANNOUNCES ONLINE EMERGENCY HELP FOR STUDENT VETERANS

WASHINGTON, DC – Seventh District Congressman Dave Obey (D-WI) announced today that emergency help is now available to student veterans who have not yet received tuition, housing and book payments under the GI Bill for the 21st Century. The funding for the GI Bill was provided through legislation produced by the Appropriations Committee which Obey chairs.

“Many veterans have had to wait for educational benefits and that’s not right,” said Obey. “Veterans should not be asked to sacrifice just to get through the VA bureaucracy.” Starting tomorrow, Friday, October 2, 2009 emergency aid will be available online.

Prior to adding this option, veterans could only claim advances on their educational benefits by going in person to one of 57 regional offices. Many student veterans have applied for benefits, but thousands were forced to live off their savings, take out personal loans or run up credit card bills while waiting to get their checks from the VA. The online application allows veterans to receive an advance of up to \$3000 on their earned educational benefits.

Student veterans may apply online by going to <http://www.va.gov>. Applicants will receive their benefit checks through the mail. Veterans without their own transportation who wish to visit a regional office may request a free van service by calling their nearest VA medical center.

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